

unable to vote on an Obey motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3289 (rollcall 567). Had I been present, I would have voted "no." Further, I was unable to vote on final passage of H.J. Res. 73, making further continuing appropriations for FY04 (rollcall 568). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on July 14, 2003 and missed rollcall vote No. 357, the Ackerman-LaTourette amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill which would require that the USDA expend no funds to approve meat from downed animals—animals that are too sick to walk or stand—for food. I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY OF BURBANK'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Family Service Agency of Burbank for its 50 years of dedicated service to the Burbank community.

The Family Service Agency of Burbank was established as a non-profit, community based organization in 1953 to provide counseling and educational services for children and their families. These services are extremely pertinent to the health and well being of the community as a whole. The agency's exceptional support system is comprised of generous individuals, small businesses, corporations, the United Way, service clubs, community foundations, and the city of Burbank itself.

Since its creation, Burbank's leading citizens have faithfully served on the agency's board of directors to assure professional services be available. All these services are affordable and genuinely attempt to meet the needs of the Burbank community. Currently, individual and group counseling, specialized youth services, parenting classes, and anger management resources for victims of domestic violence and their families have been incorporated. The Family Service Agency of Burbank has successfully collaborated with the Burbank Unified School District, the faith community, and the City of Burbank to deliver life-changing services to those in dire need of them. Their determination and innumerable achievements have provided the residents of the City of Burbank with a valuable resource to address common societal problems.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating the Family Service Agency of Burbank for 50 years of unwavering service to the Burbank community.

EMPLOYMENT DOWNFALL IN OHIO

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the dramatic downfall in Ohio employment since this current administration took office in January of 2001. This downfall is being felt by middle-class workers throughout Cleveland, throughout Ohio and throughout our Nation.

In January of 2001, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that Cleveland benefited from 1,147,700 jobs. By January 2003, that number plunged by 55,000 jobs. After two additional years of fiscally reckless policies from this administration, current preliminary estimates state less than 1,113,100 jobs now exist in the City of Cleveland.

In September of 2001, Cleveland had 183,100 manufacturing jobs. The current number of manufacturing jobs has dipped to 165,700. The amount of job losses in manufacturing for the State of Ohio since August 2001 now total 86,700.

A great many of these unemployed manufacturing employees are dependent on benefits provided under the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation program. The total number of unemployed workers in Ohio who have exhausted these benefits amounts to 126,000.

Ohioans must have the means necessary to aid them through these troubling economic times. I would urge this administration to focus on initiatives to boost employment—not just tax cuts.

Ohioans deserve a resolution to this unemployment spell. The facts show that too many are still out of work. Ohioans deserve to know why.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL JACK JACOBS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Jack Jacobs for his years service and dedication to his country. Colonel Jacobs will be honored by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States at the Testimonial Dinner on Thursday, October 30, 2003, at the Newark Liberty Airport Wyndham in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Colonel Jack Jacobs is a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving two tours of duty courageously. His heroism is exemplified by his numerous commendations, including two Purple Heart Medals, three Bronze Stars, two Silver Stars, and the Medal of Honor, the United States highest combat decoration. Colonel Jacobs risked his life and overcame personal injury to save the lives of 13 allied soldiers and one United States advisor. Colonel Jacobs retired from the United States Army in 1987.

Colonel Jack Jacobs serves on several boards of directors on numerous companies, and is the secretary of the Board of Directors for the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. Colonel Jacobs is a regular fixture on

CNBC and MSNBC as a military and foreign affairs analyst.

Colonel Jack Jacobs received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University. During his military service, Colonel Jacobs served as a faculty member at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and the National War College in Washington, DC.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel Jack Jacobs for his outstanding leadership and courage, his 21 years of military service, and his commitment to his fellow man.

THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, this legislation ensures the federal government's deep commitment to a highly-trained and diverse workforce. But we should go even further. In order to best maximize federal government resources, we should consider allowing competition within other aspects of the student loan program, including consolidation loans.

In order to ensure that we instill such competition, we should safeguard and improve existing loan consolidation opportunities. The 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act has allowed Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) student loan borrowers who hold loans from more than one underlying lender to select from those lenders when consolidating their loans. This change has enabled many recent college graduates to refinance their loans at a lower fixed-interest rate. However, student loan borrowers who hold loans through a single lender must consolidate loans through their current lender. This rule, known as the "Single Holder Rule," fosters a situation analogous to requiring homeowners to refinance their mortgages only through their current mortgage holders. We should consider repealing the single holder rule during the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

As we progress through this reauthorization, I am hopeful that we will preserve the existing loan consolidation provisions and also improve this important program. Allowing competition in loan consolidation encourages student loan borrowers to consolidate their loans and to further reduce their debt burden by taking advantage of historically-low, fixed-interest rates, just as other borrowers are able to do every day.

HONORING MICHAEL BERRY ON THE DEDICATION OF THE MICHAEL BERRY AMPHITHEATER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor my dear friend, Michael Berry on the occasion of the dedication of the Michael Berry Amphitheater at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan.

The son of Lebanese immigrants, Michael Berry came of age in Depression Era South